

on this subject, while here in America, even the staid and conservative *Atlantic Monthly* has in a recent number an excellent article on the "Working Woman and the Franchise." If no speaker is available, that need not discourage us, for a useful course of reading could easily be mapped out, and I would even go so far as to desire that a certain small proportion of selected material should find a place in the issues of our cherished JOURNAL, even though it should be desirable for the editorial columns to preserve an independent attitude. I commend the whole matter to the most respectful and serious attention of our nursing associations.

New York, October 14.

ADELAIDE NUTTING.

THE SUFFRAGE

DEAR EDITOR: The JOURNAL'S assertion that the question of suffrage is not of sufficient interest to women of the nursing profession to warrant any but an indefinite stand being taken editorially, has surprised and disappointed many of its readers.

It has been stated in one of its editorial pages that nurses have to contend with political forces which oppose the advancement of the class to which they belong. In what other truly effective way can nurses contend with such forces except by becoming politically forceful themselves?

It would be interesting to know what the attitude of the JOURNAL will be when the extension of the suffrage to women becomes a reality, as it soon will be in England. When nurses, as citizens, are entitled to vote for legislation in furtherance of their interests, for efficient men and women in government, and for health measures, far-reaching in results, will the JOURNAL, editorially, still remain neutral and uninterested?

Surely the purpose of this periodical could still be maintained if its policies were not so severely technical as to exclude a word of approval for some of the large reform movements.

Those of us who were impressed recently by the vigorous support of suffrage shown by the English nurses, cannot but feel that the nurses of America, though spirited in *individual* matters, still lack the true spirit of the times, an awakening *social* responsibility.

NORA K. HOLMAN, R.N.

THE SUFFRAGE—ANOTHER VIEW

DEAR EDITOR: As for the action in San Francisco relative to the suffrage question, let me say first that the Nurses' Associated Alumnae did right in refusing to go on record in support of a movement that is

in no sense vital to the nursing profession. Equal suffrage, although a matter of justice, should not be an issue with the nurses of the country because their issue is a uniform training throughout the United States, and this can only be accomplished through the registration laws which in time should be made uniform.

Some day equal suffrage may be a political issue in one or more states. Should the Associated Alumnae of Nurses side with the women who are working for equal suffrage, by going on record in writing and in print in favor of this movement, it might work seriously against the nurses in some state getting the law they should have. I know men and I know legislators well enough to know that they would quickly side against a nurse registration law which was pushed forward by women who were also working in favor of equal suffrage. As I said before registration for nurses is vital to us but equal suffrage is not and if we are going to win in the former instance, and lay the substantial foundation stones for a uniform curriculum, we must as a profession keep in the "straight and narrow path" and know no other end but this one. What individual nurses may think or do is of no import, but as associations, local, state and national, we must keep to our own interests. Such resolutions as those presented in San Francisco should be pigeon-holed and never see the light of day, for as associations it is wiser not to go on record either way, for or against.

LOUIE CROFT BOYD, R.N.

LONG HOURS OF PRIVATE DUTY NURSES

DEAR EDITOR: There has been a great deal of discussion about various difficult phases of nursing, one, which has perplexed me for years, being why there are so many nurses who do inferior work, and I finally saw that one reason is that nurses on private duty are so often called upon to do more than twelve-hour duty. No matter how light a case may be considered, the nurse requires eight hours of rest from care or nervous strain, and if she is expecting a patient to call her during the time that she is supposed to rest, she is not free from strain. Nursing is the hardest of all professions because the responsibility is so great, for the nurse is entrusted with a human life, and I say that she needs the best rest, rest at night.

Things can be arranged, in any way that is best, if people only wish to do it. Three-fourths, I think it is safe to say, of my patients are not in extreme danger, and if only one nurse is on a case the patient will do better if the nurse is on during the day. The patient then receives